

DOCKET NO.: FCI-2714/C3549



09-21-05

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Steven E. Minich, et al.

Application No.: **10/634,547**

Filing Date: **August 5, 2003**

Confirmation No.: **6034**

Group Art Unit: **2833**

Examiner: **Renee S. Luebke**

For: **Electrical Connectors Having Contacts That May Be Selectively Designated As Either Signal Or Ground Contacts**

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO: EV 614723098 US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: September 20, 2005

(EV614723098US)

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

- A Preliminary Amendment.
- An Amendment Responsive to the Office Action Dated June 14, 2005.
- An Amendment Supplemental to the Paper filed
- A Substitute Specification (pages 1 -) in clean form.
 - A substitute specification (pages 1 -) with markings.
- An Abstract is enclosed.
- replacement sheets of drawings are enclosed comprising figures
- Request is hereby made to accept black and white photograph(s) in this case, as they are the only practicable medium for illustrating the claimed invention. One (1) set of black and white photographs comprising figure(s) is submitted herewith.
- Petition is hereby made to accept drawing(s)/photograph(s) in this case.

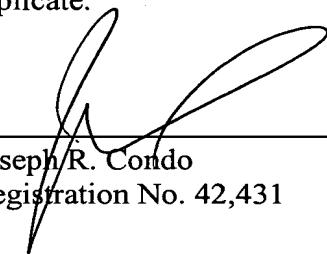
- Three (3) sets of color drawing(s)/photograph(s) and black and white photocopy that accurately depicts to the extent possible, the subject matter shown in the color drawing(s)/photograph(s), are enclosed, comprising figures
- An amendment to the first paragraph in that portion of the Brief Description of the Drawings is also enclosed herewith advising that the patent contains at least one drawing/photograph in color.
- A Certified Copy of each of the following applications: _____ is enclosed.
- An Assignee Power of Attorney is enclosed.
- Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.
 - Attached Form 1449.
 - Copies of reference Nos. 91 thru 96 as listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.
- A Terminal Disclaimer is attached.
- Appendices as follows:
- Other: Applicant-Initiated Interview Summary
- No Additional Fee is Due.**
- Applicant(s) has previously claimed small entity status under 37 CFR § 1.27.
- Applicant(s) by its/their undersigned attorney, claims small entity status under 37 CFR § 1.27 as _____.
- This application is no longer entitled to small entity status. It is requested that this be noted in the files of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

	REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST PAID FOR	EXTRA	RATE	SMALL ENTITY FEE	NOT SMALL ENTITY RATE	NOT SMALL ENTITY FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	33	40	0	\$25 EACH	\$	\$50 EACH	\$0
INDEP. CLAIMS	3	6	0	\$100 EACH	\$	\$200 EACH	\$0
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT				\$180	\$	\$360	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ONE MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME				\$60	\$	\$120	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> TWO MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME				\$225	\$	\$450	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> THREE MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME				\$510	\$	\$1020	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> FOUR MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME				\$795	\$	\$1590	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> FIVE MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME				\$1080	\$	\$2160	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> LESS ANY EXTENSION FEE ALREADY PAID			minus	(\$)	minus	(\$)	
<input type="checkbox"/> TERMINAL DISCLAIMER				\$65	\$	\$130	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER FEE OR SURCHARGE AS FOLLOWS:							\$180
TOTAL FEE DUE				\$			\$300

- A checks in the amount of **\$120.00 and \$180.00** are attached. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 23-3050.
- Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-3050 in the amount of **.00**. This sheet is attached in duplicate.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of the fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-3050.
- Petition is hereby made under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) (fees: 37 CFR § 1.17(a)(1)-(4)) to extend the time for response to the Office Action of June 14, 2005 to and through October 14, 2005 comprising an extension of the shortened statutory period of one month.

- The Commissioner is hereby requested to grant an extension of time for the appropriate length of time, should one be necessary, in connection with this filing or any future filing submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the above-identified application during the pendency of this application. The Commissioner is further authorized to charge any fees related to any such extension of time to Deposit Account 23-3050. This sheet is provided in duplicate.

Date: September 20, 2005


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Registration No. 42,431

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicant-Initiated Interview Summary

Date of Interview: July 21, 2005

Interview Type: Personal Telephonic Electronic Mail Video Conference Other:

Participants:

From PTO: (Include Name and Title)

1. Examiner Ross N. Gushi
- 2.
- 3.

For Applicant:

1. Joseph R. Condo, Attorney for Applicant, Reg. No. 42,431
2. Dean E. Geibel, Attorney for Applicant, Reg. No. 42,570
3. Mr. Joseph Shuey, Applicant
4. Mr. Stephen Smith, Applicant

An exhibit or demonstration was included and is described below:

An embodiment of the claimed connector was provided to the Examiner.

The claims discussed included: Generally, all claims were discussed.

The references discussed included:

U.S. patent 6,554,647 ("Cohen");
FCI's METRAL connector line

An agreement was was not reached.

It was agreed that the attached claims are allowable.

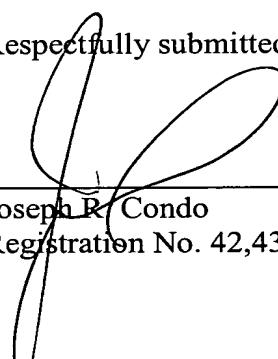
It was agreed that the attached amendment would be entered.

The interview is summarized below.

Applicant noted that FCI's METRAL connector line included low-speed connectors that allowed for "customer selected pin assignments." Applicant further noted, however, that, at least because the METRAL contacts are square and equally spaced along the rows and columns, METRAL does not teach or suggest a connector having edge-coupled differential signal pairs of electrical contacts.

The Examiner suggested that the Applicant recite additional structural limitations in the claims to distinguish over the low-speed METRAL connector.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph R. Condo
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